

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A control input circuit for an electrical appliance, comprising:
a constant current sink, connected into a control line, whose drawn current assumes a detection value during the length of a detection pulse, the drawn current being lowered between two successive detection pulses; and
an evaluation module ~~to analyze~~that analyzes the input current flowing in the control line and ~~to indicate~~indicates a control signal if during the detection pulse, the input current is not below a prescribed ~~turned-on~~-value for a prescribed ~~turned-on~~-period.
2. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein an actuation module is connected to the constant current sink, which prescribes the magnitude of the drawn current.
3. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuation module is an oscillator circuit whose total resistance alternates discretely between two values.
4. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuation module includes a microprocessor.
5. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein a diode is connected upstream of the constant current sink.
6. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaluation module comprises an RC element.
7. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 6, wherein a threshold circuit, connected upstream of the RC element, permits a flow of current to the RC element only if the input current exceeds the turned-on value.

8. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the constant current sink comprises a field effect transistor.
9. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detection pulses are periodically successive in time.
10. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 9, wherein, when the control signal is in the form of a control voltage which alternates over time, the period of the detection pulses is coordinated with the phase of the control voltage.
11. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a respective detection pulse starts in coordination with each positive half cycle of the control voltage.
12. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drawn current of the constant current sink between two successive detection pulses is lowered by at least a factor of ~~10~~ten in comparison with the detection value.
13. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~turned-on~~prescribed value of the input current corresponds to approximately 85% of the detection value.
14. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~turned-on~~prescribed period is at least 70% of the length of the detection pulse.
15. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the length of the period of time between two successive detection pulses exceeds the length of the detection pulse by at least twofold.
16. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detection value is approximately 8 mA.

17. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the length of a detection pulse is approximately 4 ms.
18. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the actuation module and the evaluation module are in the form of an integrated circuit.
19. (Previously Presented) An electrical appliance comprising a control input circuit as claimed in claim 1.
20. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuation module is an oscillator circuit whose total resistance alternates discretely between two values.
21. (Previously Presented) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuation module includes a microprocessor.